(c) Based on Employment Market Information, the total number of employees in the organised sector was 279.60 lakhs as on 31.03.2000 and 264.58 lakh as on 31.03.2005.

(d) Highest growth rate of 1.5% in employment in the organised sector was recorded in case of North-Eastern Region and minimum growth rate of (-) 9.3% was observed for the Central Zone consisting of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

National Authority for geographical indicators for intellectual property rights

291. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Authority to determine geographical indicators is necessary to secure against possible infringment of intellectual property right of any community or region;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the country does not have such national authority to determine geographical indicators;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up such national authority and what steps are being taken to expedite the processes; and

(d) whether Government has made transitory arrangement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) India has enacted the Geographical indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force from 15th September, 2003, to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods. For the facilitation of registration of geographical indications, Geographical Indications Registry has been set up at Chennai.

Non-availability of residues detection facilities

292. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that imported agricultural commodities were not subjected for the presence of presticides residues due to non-availability of residues detection facilities; and

(b) how many consignments of our agricultural commodities have been returned by other countries on account of presence of unacceptable levels of presticies residues in the past five years and details of commodities and countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Report on SEZs by MPs panel

293. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel of Member of Parliament has reportedly submitted the Report titled "The functioning of Special Economic Zones" on June 20,2007;